



June 23, 2011

SOUND



## Bumper Cars

The following account is from a NASA/KSC employee:

*"The other day I was driving along 405, admittedly doing 5 miles over the speed limit, when someone approached so close from behind that I could clearly see the person's flaring nostrils. I couldn't change lanes because there were vehicles in the adjacent lane and any sudden movement would have forced a hard break by the guy next to me. So, I kept a steady speed hoping at some point to move over. But, before I could change lanes, the irritated driver hurriedly rushed passed me yelling vile obscenities. The driver's face is now ingrained in my memory and I often think, 'What will I do if I ever come face-to-face with this person?'"*

Unfortunately, this is not an uncommon occurrence.

The KSC work force should treat other drivers with the same respect as when they see each other in person. As a reminder, signs of disrespect such as tailgating, aggressive hand gestures and cutting off other drivers are not acceptable and are grounds for citations at KSC. The other extreme is equally unwelcome. That is, drivers going slow in the fast lane to agitate a tailgating driver. Such actions can set off increasing hostility and lead to road rage incidents.

In April 2011, there were **205** citations issued at KSC; **146** were for unlawful speeds of **15 mph or more** over the posted speed limit. Forty-five citations were issued for unlawful speeds of **20 or more**. One individual was clocked at 38 mph over the posted speed limit (93 in a 55)! Citations at KSC carry substantial penalties, 1-12 points against your driving record.

The Kennedy Space Center (KSC) Procedural Requirements 1600.1 Rev: A., paragraph 19.6a states that the accumulation of 12 points within 12 consecutive months, 18 traffic points within 18 consecutive months, or 24 traffic points within 24 consecutive months will be cause for the **suspension** of driving privileges on KSC.

Some speeders who may think that's not so bad fail to consider the KSC environment. State Road 405 is surrounded by water and wildlife; many visitors, including children, travel our roadways every day; and many drivers are not from the local area and tend to drive slowly or stop to capture the scenery. Do you want to be the KSC employee who runs into a car full of tourists and children?

There are no valid reasons for speeding or aggressive driving on KSC nor its surrounding areas. Take your time. If you tend to be late, leave earlier. Don't endanger yourself or others to save a couple of minutes!

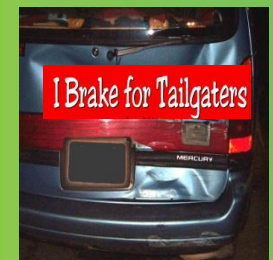
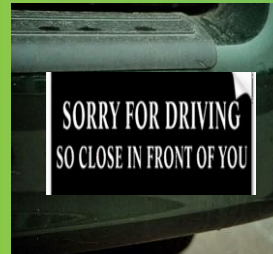
**It only takes a moment of careless behavior to change lives forever.**

**As the saying goes, if you take undue risk, "It's only a matter of time!"**

## Fun Facts



## Car bumper philosophy



If you have questions, comments, or a topic you would like to see addressed:

please send to Reneka Whicker at [reneka.a.whicker@nasa.gov](mailto:reneka.a.whicker@nasa.gov)

or Brian Gloade at [brian.i.gloade@nasa.gov](mailto:brian.i.gloade@nasa.gov)